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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

State of Qatar

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

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Position of the State of Qatar on the 84 recommendations which, during the discussion of its second periodic report to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the State designated for consideration and response before the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council

No.	*Recommendation*	*State's position*	*Reasons (if any)*
124.1	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Rome Statute, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (France).	Recommendation rejected	In the national report and the address by the head of the delegation of the State of Qatar, reference was made to the fact that the State was studying the question of accession to the two International Covenants (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and, consequently, the State accepted all the recommendations concerning accession to those two Covenants. With regard to ratification of other instruments and protocols, the State confirms its political will to accede to the international conventions since it believes in their importance. However, accession to a large number of conventions in a short period of time places pressure and a burden on the State's legislative authorities and, therefore, the State is not currently considering accession to those instruments
124.2	Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Nicaragua).	Recommendation accepted	
124.3	Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Turkmenistan).	Recommendation accepted	
124.4	Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and adopt a new media law that respects freedom of expression (United States of America).	Under implementation (accepted)	
124.5	Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Rwanda).	Recommendation accepted	

No.	*Recommendation*	*State's position*	*Reasons (if any)*
124.6	Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as recommended during the first cycle (Slovenia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.7	Consider early ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Japan).	Recommendation accepted	
124.8	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro).	Recommendation accepted	
124.9	Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Tunisia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.10	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as fundamental documents in the area of human rights (Russian Federation).	Recommendation accepted	
124.11	Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Germany).	Recommendation accepted	
124.12	Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.13	Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (Portugal).	Recommendation rejected	
124.14	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria).	Recommendation rejected	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.15	Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Maldives).	Recommendation rejected	
124.16	Consider ratifying the following international instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the second Optional Protocol thereto; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, implementing the national preventive mechanism (Uruguay).	Recommendation rejected	
124.17	Ratify the human rights treaties listed in section I A of the compilation of OHCHR, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as well as the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana).	Recommendation rejected	
124.18	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Costa Rica).	Recommendation rejected	
124.19	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as also recommended by the Qatari National Human Rights Committee (Denmark).	Recommendation rejected	
124.20	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Tunisia).	Recommendation rejected	
124.21	Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Albania).	Recommendation rejected	
124.22	Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Indonesia).	Recommendation rejected	
124.23	Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Rwanda).	Recommendation rejected	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.24	Ratify the Migrant Workers Convention with a view to better harmonizing national legislation with international norms (Senegal).	Recommendation rejected	
124.25	Accede to core human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party, including the Migrant Workers Convention (Philippines).	Recommendation rejected	
124.26	Implement measures to strengthen women's capacities and empower them to participate in political and economic life, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal).	Recommendation rejected	
124.27	Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Montenegro).	Recommendation rejected	
124.28	Ratify the core ILO conventions, including the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and reform the law on sponsorship, removing the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before changing jobs or leaving the country (Austria).	Recommendation rejected	
124.29	Ratify the three remaining core ILO conventions and enforce ratified conventions and the relevant labour laws effectively, with a special focus on the elimination of forced labour (ILO Convention No. 29), while continuing to work in close and active cooperation with ILO and other international organizations (Netherlands).	Recommendation rejected	
124.30	Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and ILO Convention No. 189 (Sierra Leone).	Recommendation rejected	
124.31	Accede to ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines).	Recommendation rejected	
124.32	Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.33	Equip the government committee established to consider accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with adequate power and resources to accelerate the process and reach a practical outcome (Viet Nam).	Recommendation accepted	

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.34	Integrate the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in the national legislation regulating the media and religious institutions, and ensure the actual implementation of the Plan (Syrian Arab Republic).	Recommendation accepted	
124.35	Continue to strengthen protective measures and legal rights for women, and give full citizenship rights to the children of Qatari mothers and non-Qatari fathers (Norway).	Recommendation rejected	
124.36	Consider granting Qatari nationality to the children of Qatari women married to foreign nationals (Greece).	Recommendation rejected	
124.37	Achieve real progress with regard to women's rights by reforming the Nationality Act, to ensure gender equality and to give Qatari women the right to transmit their nationality to their children, and by withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto (France).	Recommendation rejected	
124.38	Amend the legislation to eliminate discrimination against women with respect to the transmission of nationality to their children and the registration of civil acts (Mexico).	Recommendation rejected	
124.39	Amend Act No. 22 of 2006 on family and personal status matters to eliminate provisions that lead to discrimination against women, for example the failure of the law to criminalize marital rape (Spain).	Recommendation rejected	
124.40	Take the necessary measures to amend national laws that allow discrimination against women so that those laws are in line with international human rights standards, and criminalize domestic violence (Switzerland).	Recommendation rejected	
124.41	Take effective actions to ensure that women are fully protected from discrimination and violence, including by criminalizing domestic violence against women, adopt legal measures to guarantee full gender equality, and consider withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany).	Recommendation rejected	With regard to the first part of the recommendation, the State confirms that numerous effective measures have been taken to ensure that women are fully protected; with regard to the second part of the recommendation, at the present time the State is not considering withdrawing its reservations to CEDAW.

No.	Recommendation	State's position	Reasons (if any)
124.42	Adopt specific legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women (Czech Republic).	Already implemented	
124.43	Criminalize domestic violence and ensure that a broad definition of the crime is applied so as to ensure the protection of all persons concerned, including domestic workers (Belgium).	Already implemented	
124.44	Continue to build the capacity of an independent judiciary that would process court cases more effectively and independently (Canada).	Already implemented	
124.45	Strengthen the judicial framework, including due process, freedom of expression and freedom of association (Australia).	Already implemented	
124.46	Guarantee the exercise of freedom of religion or reach an agreement authorizing the opening of places of worship for people who are neither Muslims nor Christians (France).	Already implemented	
124.47	Respect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as accepted during the previous UPR cycle, and refrain from imposing any undue restriction on this right, including with regard to the new draft media law (Germany).	Already implemented	
124.48	Implement fully legal guarantees for freedom of expression as stipulated in the Constitution, thus allowing Qatari citizens to exercise their freedom of expression and opinion and enabling independent media in the country (Slovenia).	Already implemented	
124.49	Guarantee freedom of expression by protecting journalists, bloggers and media professionals from arbitrary arrest and detention and from censorship, including by amending those provisions in the Criminal Code and the draft media law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (France).	Already implemented	
124.50	Decriminalize defamation as recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Ghana).	Already implemented	
124.51	Refrain from adopting any laws providing for censorship or undue control over the content of the media (Czech Republic).	Already implemented	

No.	*Recommendation*	*State's position*	*Reasons (if any)*
124.52	Amend those articles of the draft media law and the draft cybercrime law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression (Austria).	Already implemented	
124.53	Take immediate measures to ensure that the national regulations pertaining to the Internet guarantee freedom of expression (Sweden).	Already implemented	
124.54	Ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals for expressing their political or religious views, including on the Internet (Czech Republic).	Already implemented	
124.55	Amend the relevant national legislation, including the Law on Associations and Institutions, to reduce restrictions on procedures for establishing associations (Ireland).	Recommendation rejected	
124.56	Revise Law No. 18 of 2004 in order to remove restricting conditions for acquiring permission for a public demonstration, and take other steps to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of assembly and the right of association (Czech Republic).	Recommendation rejected	
124.57	Continue efforts to achieve full universal health coverage, including for non-nationals, as part of the National Health Strategy (Thailand).	Under implementation (accepted)	
124.58	Extend the benefits of its health insurance, currently limited to Qataris and citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council countries, to any citizen residing in its territory (Comoros).	Under implementation (accepted)	
124.59	Reform the Labour Code so that it ensures the protection of the labour rights of all workers, including domestic and construction workers, and put in place mechanisms to improve enforcement of the law (Denmark).	Recommendation accepted	
124.60	Revise the labour law to protect the rights of all workers without discrimination and ensure their effective access to justice, in cooperation with ILO (Belgium).	Already implemented	
124.61	Adopt a new Labour Code or amend the existing Code soon, so as to improve the conditions and rights of migrant and foreign workers (Italy).	Recommendation accepted	

No.	*Recommendation*	*State's position*	*Reasons (if any)*
124.62	Take active steps to reform its labour laws in order to improve working conditions for foreign workers, to give female domestic workers the necessary legal protection and to address the recent ruling by ILO on forced labour and freedom of association and collective bargaining (Norway).	Recommendation accepted	
124.63	Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers and to protect their interests through taking the requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal).	Recommendation accepted	
124.64	Take measures to ensure the access of migrants and non-citizens, especially children, to justice, employment, education, housing and health services (Czech Republic).	Recommendation accepted	
124.65	Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrants, particularly those of female domestic workers (Indonesia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.66	Adopt all necessary measures, including legislative measures, in order to apply a policy on migrants with a human rights perspective, in particular with regard to the detention of migrants, especially women and children (Uruguay).	Recommendation accepted	
124.67	Guarantee respect for the rights of migrant workers, in particular by strengthening the capacity of the labour inspectorate, reform the *kafala* system and ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (France).	Recommendation rejected	
124.68	Consider abolishing the *kafala* system for all migrant workers and eliminating the exit permit system (Costa Rica).	Recommendation accepted	
124.69	Review the *kafala* system in order to comply with international standards (Sweden).	Recommendation accepted	
124.70	Establish a timetable for reform of the system of sponsorship-based employment (Brazil).	Recommendation accepted	
124.71	Abolish or reform the restrictive law on sponsorship, which drives potential labour exploitation and human trafficking, strengthen enforcement of the labour law, continue to increase awareness of human rights of migrant workers, and expand legal protections (United States of America).	Recommendation accepted	

No.	*Recommendation*	*State's position*	*Reasons (if any)*
124.72	Reform the sponsorship system, removing the requirement for foreign workers to obtain permission before leaving Qatar or moving jobs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.73	Abolish the exit visa system for foreign workers (Brazil).	Recommendation accepted	
124.74	Abolish the exit visa system for migrant workers (Ireland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.75	Remove the requirement in the law on sponsorship for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country, and ensure that the rights of migrant workers are protected (Australia).	Recommendation accepted	
124.76	Improve the legal protection of migrant workers, apply the provisions of the labour laws that prohibit the retention of passports of migrant workers, strengthen institutional controls for the protection of migrant workers, and remove or amend the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain their sponsor's consent in order to obtain exit visas (Switzerland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.77	Take further urgent steps to address the concerns raised during the session about the recruitment and treatment of foreign workers (Ghana).	Recommendation accepted	
124.78	Abolish the laws on sponsorship and include domestic workers in laws that protect workers (Spain).	Recommendation accepted	
124.79	Ensure that the draft law on domestic workers, which it is hoped will be adopted very soon, is in line with ILO Convention No. 189 (Uruguay).	Already implemented	
124.80	Develop a specific strategy to ensure that domestic workers can file complaints in cases of violence and abuse, without fear of reprisal or harassment (Belgium).	Already implemented	

No.	*Recommendation*	*State's position*	*Reasons (if any)*
124.81	Reform labour laws to ensure that domestic workers are legally protected and improve the enforcement of those laws, in order to ensure that the rights of foreign workers in Qatar are guaranteed (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).	Recommendation accepted	
124.82	Adopt legal provisions that guarantee migrant workers the right to join trade unions (Spain).	Recommendation rejected	
124.83	Hold regular meetings of agreed institutional mechanisms to address issues pertaining to migrant workers and ensure dialogue under such arrangements (India).	Recommendation accepted	
124.84	Maintain its commitment to dedicating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to overseas development assistance in order to support economic and social rights in poor countries (Sierra Leone).	Recommendation accepted	